

REVIEWED BY M. K. C. H. M. DATE 3-13-87RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

AN: D740125-0101

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ACTION 10-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIE-00 SSQ-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CPR-02 SY-04 A-01

FBIE-00 SAJ-01 USSS-00 IOE-00 DRC-01 /108 W

094183

O 201941Z MAY 74 ZFF-6

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4164

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS USUN 1872

C. 11662: N/A

TALS: UR, US, PFOR, ASEC

SUBJ: FIRE DAMAGE SOVIET MISSION CAR

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 AM, MAY 19, 1974, A 1971 TOYOTA, DPL-808, REGISTERED TO SMUN AND OPERATED BY GRIGORIY V. BERDERNIKOV, SMUN STAFF MEMBER, WAS FIRE DAMAGED BY UNKNOWN PERSON. CAR WAS PARKED IN FRONT OF COTTAGE OCCUPIED BY BERDERNIKOV AND HIS FAMILY DURING SUMMER MONTHS. ADDRESS IS 126 BEACH 24TH ST, FAR ROCKAWAY, QUEENS, NEW YORK.

2. SHORTLY AFTER INCIDENT, ANONYMOUS CALLER PHONED ASSOCIATED PRESS AND SAID CAR HAD BEEN SET AFIRE BY "JEWISH STERNIST COMITE." CALLER STATED "AS KREMLIN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOVIET JEWS INTENSIFIES, OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST KREMLIN WILL INTENSIFY." NEW YORK POLICE ADVISE THIS IS FIRST THEY HAVE HEARD OF STERNIST COMITE AND BELIEVE IT IS GROUP OF JDL MEMBERS WHO HAVE ADOPTED NAME.

3. INCIDENT BEING INVESTIGATED BY NEW YORK POLICE, NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT TOLD POLICE HE OBSERVED LONE INDIVIDUAL POUR LIQUID OVER CAR THEN FLEE AS LIQUID IGNITED. DAMAGE

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TO CAR CONTAINED TO BURNED UPHOLSTERY, DESTROYED TIRE, AND SCORCHED PAINT.

4. SOVIET AMB SAFRONCHUK TELEPHONED AMB BENNETT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 PM, MAY 19, TO EXPRESS HIS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER "INTOLERABLE" INCIDENT. HE STATED HE WOULD MAKE INCIDENT MATTER OF RECORD THROUGH NOTE OF PROTEST WHICH SMUN PLANNED SEND USUN MAY 20. SAFRONCHUK ALSO ADVISED SOVS WOULD CLAIM DAMAGES. BENNETT EXPRESSED REGRET. ACCORDING TO AMB BENNETT, SAFRONCHUK'S DEemeanOR WAS CORRECT AND FIRM BUT NOT OFFENSIVE.

5. IN TV NEWS INTERVIEW AT SITE OF INCIDENT, BERDERNIKOV STATED WHILE HE CONCERNED ABOUT DAMAGE TO CAR, WHICH HE STATED, COULD BE REPAIRED, HE MUCH MORE CONCERNED OVER DAMAGE INCIDENT TH'S NATURE COULD DO TO US-USSR DETENTE.

6. DURING SUMMER MONTHS, SOVS OCCUPY SOME SIXTH BEACH COTTAGES IN FAR ROCKAWAY. COTTAGES ALL LOCATED WITHIN FOUR-BLOCK AREA. POLICE HAVE RECORD OF ALL ADDRESSES AND AFFORD THEM SPECIAL ATTENTION DURING OCCUPANCY. BERDERNIKOV'S VISIT TO COTTAGE WAS FIRST OF SEASON AND POLICE HAD NOT YET IMPLEMENTED INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF COTTAGES.

7. INCIDENT PRESENTED TO US ATTORNEY, THOMAS PATTISON, EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, WHO DECLINED FEDERAL PROSECUTION IN FAVOR OF LOCAL POLICE.
SCALE

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